

# Injury Prevention Network Region IX Newsletter

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A SAFE AND  
HEALTHY NEW YEAR!!!

## IN UPCOMING ISSUE:

Prevention Institute will provide an update  
on the SAFEUSA conference proceedings.

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## CALIFORNIA

### California EMS for Children News

The fourth annual Emergency Medical Services for Children Conference was held in San Diego on November 13 and 14. Over 125 physicians, nurses, EMS administrators, paramedics, and ambulance personnel attended. Conference topics included Teenage Drug Scene and Overdoses, Pediatric CPR, Turning Grief into Policy Change, Special Needs Children, Injury Prevention, and Effects of Bioterrorism and Disaster on Children. Planning is underway for the fifth annual EMSC Conference, which will be held next November.

In addition to the Conference, a two-day Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Professionals (PEPP) training was held. This training provides state of the art hands-on and lecture presentations on vital assessment and life support techniques for children. Information on the course is available from the American Academy of Pediatrics website at [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org).

The EMSC website is a repository of important information for individuals interested in emergency medical services for children. Please visit the website at [www.emsa.ca.gov](http://www.emsa.ca.gov). Click on EMS Division, then EMS for Children.

### Other EMS Updates

The EMS/Injury Prevention workshop ("Partners in Prevention: EMS and Injury Control") held September 4 (one day prior to the annual Childhood Injury Control Conference) had a smaller turnout than last year's workshop, but was made up of four excellent groups of presenters. They discussed the Fire Service's "Risk Watch" program, NHTSA's "First There, First Care" program, Riverside County EMS Agency's varied prevention and public education programs, and San Diego's EPIC Medics program. CE credits were again offered to EMTs and paramedics.

The EMS Authority was awarded a two-year grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to implement NHTSA's "First There, First Care: Bystander Care for the Injured" program in rural

and wilderness Northern California high schools. The project is still awaiting all final control agency approvals to begin.

The California EMS Vision Process is progressing, and the Prevention and Public Education Committee is working toward meeting its objectives, including that of developing a uniform data set that includes surveillance data elements fundamental to prevention programs/efforts; ensuring that training programs include prevention and public education curricula items, per the revised national DOT curriculum; revising the State EMS Plan in coordination with other state agencies that have injury prevention programs; and several other objectives. (The latest publication from the Vision staff is titled "Making Vision a Reality" and is available by e-mailing [miranda.swanson@emsa.ca.gov](mailto:miranda.swanson@emsa.ca.gov). You can request just the section covering the objectives of the Prevention and Public Education Committee, if you prefer.)

### **California's Safe Routes to School Bill 2001**

AUTHOR: SENATOR NELL SOTO (D-POMONA)

- ?? Governor Gray Davis signed Senate Bill 10 into law on October 2, 2001 (International Walk to School Day). The bill extends through 2004 a pilot program initiated by AB1475 (Soto) in 1999 to make it safer for California children to walk and bike to school for another three years. The program dedicates \$20-\$25 million a year of federal transportation safety funds for local bicycle and pedestrian safety projects.
- ?? Eligible projects include new crosswalks, pedestrian and bicycle paths, bike lanes, constructing sidewalks where none exist, and "traffic calming" programs in neighborhoods around schools to slow the speed of cars and allow safer passages for children walking and bicycling to school. Applications for the next round of projects made possible under SB10 will likely be due in May 2002. Check the Caltrans website listed below for more up to date information.
- ?? About \$20-\$25 million a year is made available under the bill. For the first two rounds of the program, Caltrans received \$240 million worth of applications from local government agencies throughout the state for \$45 million of available funding.
- ?? The money for the Safe Routes to School bill comes from federal TEA-21 transportation funding apportioned to the state of California under the Hazard Elimination/Safety (HES) program currently overseen and programmed by Caltrans. The Safe Routes to School program allows local governments direct access to these funds and puts safety dollars to work in the middle of the communities and neighborhoods that need them most.
- ?? The bill addresses several important needs in California. Being hit by a car while walking or biking is one of the leading causes of injury deaths for California children aged 5 to 12. Parents driving their kids to school is now a major contribution to morning and afternoon traffic congestion, comprising between 20-25% of all vehicle trips at peak hours. Finally, fewer kids are walking or biking to school than ever before (probably less than one-tenth versus two-thirds a generation ago). This is one of the reasons that children in the U.S. are now more obese and inactive than ever before.

?? Nine other states have since followed California's lead in 1999 by introducing similar legislation. At least three other state level Safe Routes to School programs are in place with many more under consideration. Advocates hope to win a similar national funding program in the upcoming federal transportation bill, the reauthorization of the law known as TEA-21.

To view the entire bill visit <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov> and click on Senate Bill 10 under 2001 legislation.

To view a list of funded projects or to learn more about the Safe Routes to School program, visit [www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/) or call 916-653-4727.

[Click here to read the PDF version of STPP's full report.](#)

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## HAWAII

Hawaii's EMS personnel are answering the call for the next round of EMSC-funded mini grant proposals. Congratulations to recent awardees, the Kailua-Kona Fire Unit: EMS Division, who will focus their creative energies, in partnership with AYSO, on the development and distribution of a soccer injury prevention video. Still in the works are the creation of a Keiki (Child/Children) Safe 9-1-1 Activity Booklet and an Explorers Program that focuses on injury prevention strategies and the awareness of EMS as a professional endeavor.

### What's Happening

*News from around the Islands*

#### Child Car Seat Safety

Kauai continues to lead the charge when it comes to keeping Kauai's keiki (children) safe. In recent months, American Medical Response (AMR) personnel have volunteered at the health fairs, Child Safety Day, regularly scheduled car seat check-ups, and the Kauai County Farm Fair. Also, Medic 21 continues as a car seat fitting station, averaging one check-up daily. Medic 20 is now on board as a fitting station. In July, AMR Kauai Manager Zach Octavio and MICT John Blatt, both trained car seat technicians, became certified car seat instructors. Zach also volunteers at all Pop Warner games to oversee the safety of the young athletes.

In August, a group of certified child passenger safety technicians attended the second annual Technicians' Issues Workshop in Honolulu. The workshop, designed to update trained technicians from around the state on legislative and technical matters relating to keiki car seats, was well represented by the EMS personnel and first responders from all islands.

Safe Communities of Maui is pleased to proclaim a first for the state of Hawaii! Maui County First Department Hana Station is the first Fire Unit in the state to become a Child Passenger Safety Seat Fitting Station. Along with their neighbors, MPD Hana, the Fire Department can now assist parents and/or guardians in ensuring that Maui's keiki are properly restrained. This is a welcome addition to on-going efforts by American Medical Response Maui, Safe Community of Maui, Inc., and the Maui Police Department.

## **Other EMS Updates**

On the Big Island, Hawaii County Fire Departments EMS Division report partnering with the East Hawaii Kiwanis Club and the Key Clubs of Hilo and Waiakea High Schools in distributing and installing 50 emergency outdoor light beacons to residents in South Hilo. In an emergency, after calling 911, the caller can quickly flick the outdoor switch on-off-on, activating the installed flashing light beacon. This flashing light can make it easier for an emergency response team to find the ailing person's home. Residents were also given safety information and the opportunity to have their questions and concerns addressed.

Honolulu's City & County EMS Division announced that on September 26, its Metro I unit went "24/7." This increase in service (11pm-7am) better meets the needs of our nation's 56<sup>th</sup> largest (by population) metropolitan area. Support from Division Administration, vigorous lobbying efforts by paramedics and EMTs in the field, as well as accommodations by current and new personnel to staff the unit, allowed for the addition of the new midnight shift.

First responders from around Oahu showed their patriotism at October's University of Hawaii Warriors vs. Fresno State Bulldogs nationally televised football game. Along with the 175-piece UH Marching Band, EMS, Police, and Fire personnel participated in the spirited half-time show. The presentation focused on honoring our nation's true heroes of the September 11 tragedies and the city's first responders once again answered the call of duty in proudly representing their fellow comrades in this dedication to Americans everywhere.

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## **RESOURCES**

Injury Research and Prevention Abstracts on the World Wide Web at: [www.safetylit.org](http://www.safetylit.org)

### **Food For Thought...**

**"Creating A Healthy Environment: The Impact of the Built Environment on Public Health"** Sprawl Watch released a new report that links land use and public health. **"Creating A Healthy Environment: The Impact of the Built Environment on Public Health"** compiled data from across disciplines and multiple sources into a single comprehensive report that examines the effects on health of the broad physical and social environment, which includes housing, urban development, land-use and transportation, industry, and agriculture.

In this report, doctors and researchers with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found several primary connections between suburban sprawl and public health. To see the .pdf version of the report please link to <http://www.sprawlwatch.org/health.pdf>

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## **NATIONAL NEWS OF INTEREST**

### **Moving forward...**

**National Pedestrian Safety Engineering Outreach Campaign**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has contracted with a public relations/media company to develop a national campaign about pedestrian safety. To get input and ideas for the theme and direction for the campaign, FHWA and the contractor brought a group of pedestrian experts from around the country into Dulles, VA in late October 2001 to serve as a Technical Working Group (TWG). The TWG members were from a wide range of disciplines and agencies, all involved in some form or another in pedestrian safety and/or design. Some of the disciplines represented were local citizen pedestrian advocacy organizations, public health, city traffic engineering, city pedestrian/bicycle coordinators, state Department of Transportation pedestrian/bicycle coordinators, academics, pedestrian and bicycle associations, federal agencies, and national safety associations and non-profit organizations.

The FHWA's primary desire for the campaign is to develop materials that emphasize the engineering aspects of pedestrian safety. There was general consensus from the TWG that it was essential that the campaign also include a theme of improving walkability, as well as safety. The primary concern of the group was that a pure message of safety might actually encourage people to stop walking altogether, which, of course, would improve pedestrian safety statistics, which are based solely on numbers of collisions.

In this first TWG meeting, the group brainstormed issues such as the perceived attitudes and beliefs of drivers and pedestrians, identification of key focus groups to be used, suggested message components, and key questions for the focus groups. The group will be meeting two more times.

### **Highlighting Youth Leadership in Traffic Safety**

Nichole Boni, a member of the National Organization for Youth Safety (NOYS) and Gila River National Youth Council in Arizona, has become a leading voice representing youth and particularly Native American Teens on issues of traffic safety and other health issues. She is of the Akime l O'odtham/ Apache/and Seminole tribes, and is of Cuban and French descent. Nichole has served the Gila River Indian Community for more than 4 years including a two-year term on the Gila River Youth Council. Taking on numerous safety and health related projects. She was the national female representative for the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) for 1 year. And before that, Nichole was a part of the UNITY Music and Dance Troupe. She also served on the Youth for Tribal Government and participated in the "What is Your Antidrug?," through the National Education Association, and the UNITY representative for the NOYS Coalition (National Organizations for Youth Safety). She was a speaker at the MADD workshop on underage drinking in Phoenix a couple weeks ago. Nichole is passionate in her desire to give youth a voice in shaping their own safer future and working as advocates in their own communities

NOYS, which stands for National Organizations for Youth Safety, is a coalition of more than 50 nonprofit organizations, companies and government agencies that serve more than 11 million youth members, working together to provide help and resources to "YOU" to improve health and safety issues in your community.

Focus: NOYS is a Network that promotes collaboration at the national, state and local levels. The current NOYS emphasis areas are highway

Getting Youth Involved:

Nichole is just one example of the many youth speakers from NOYS. If you are involved in

planning a youth meeting, conference or other project, please consider having these youth participate in leading other youth in their involvement in the efforts and activities planned. In addition to the current NOYS youth reps, there are several "AlumNOYS" youth who may no longer be their organization's rep, but have a high interest in promoting traffic safety and other safety and health issues, are very knowledgeable, and in most cases excellent presenters. If we don't use their valuable skills and training, we will most likely lose their interest in this area, which would be a great loss for all of us. For more information contact:  
Cheryl.Neverman@nhtsa.dot.gov

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## **UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**